

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1-44 (canceled).

45 (new). A sheath having a distal end opaque to x-rays, comprising:

 a sheath body including at least one longitudinally extending sheath score line running substantially along a length of the sheath body;

 a radiopaque marker located at a distal end of the sheath body, the radiopaque marker comprising:

 a first marker segment abutting the sheath body and extending around a first portion of a perimeter of the sheath body; and

 a second marker segment abutting the sheath body and extending around a second portion of the perimeter of the sheath body,

 wherein the first marker segment and the second marker segment are discrete and define a first gap and a second gap therebetween about the perimeter of the sheath body.

46 (new). The sheath according to claim 45, wherein the first marker segment and the second marker segment are each bonded to an inner wall of the sheath body.

47 (new). The sheath according to claim 45, wherein the first marker segment and the second marker segment are each embedded in the sheath body.

48 (new). The sheath according to claim 45, wherein the at least one longitudinally extending sheath score line overlaps with at least one of the first gap and the second gap between the first marker segment and the second marker segment.

49 (new). The sheath according to claim 45, wherein the sheath body includes

a first longitudinally extending sheath score line that overlaps with the first gap between the first marker segment and the second marker segment; and

a second longitudinally extending sheath score line that overlaps with the second gap between the first marker segment and the second marker segment.

50 (new). A sheath having a distal end opaque to x-rays, comprising:

a sheath body including at least one longitudinally extending sheath score line running substantially along a length of the sheath body; and

a contiguous radiopaque ring located at a distal end of the sheath body and including at least two score lines along which the contiguous radiopaque ring may be broken to separate the contiguous radiopaque ring into two or more discrete pieces,

wherein the distal end of the sheath body is separated into an inner ring and an outer ring via a longitudinal cut around its perimeter, and

wherein the contiguous radiopaque ring is sealed inside the distal end of the sheath body between the inner ring and the outer ring.

51 (new). A sheath having a distal end opaque to x-rays, comprising:

a sheath body including a pair of longitudinally extending sheath score lines running substantially along a length of the sheath body; and

a contiguous radiopaque ring secured to a distal end of the sheath, the contiguous radiopaque ring comprising:

a tubular body having an inner surface and an outer surface; and

a pair of score lines along a length of the tubular body that permit the contiguous radiopaque ring to be broken into at least two discrete pieces when the sheath body is torn along the pair of longitudinally extending sheath score lines,

wherein the inner surface of the tubular body is formed in a funnel shape at a proximal end thereof.